

Crossroads

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter March, 2014

WOODPECKERS, CAVITY BUILDERS OF THE FOREST



There are about 200 species of woodpeckers found throughout the world. They are mainly found in forests and woodland habitats.

Many species are threatened or endangered through loss of habitat or habitat fragmentation. Two of the largest species, the ivory-billed woodpecker and the imperial woodpecker, that once occupied forests of southern United States and Mexico, are now thought to be extinct. Japan has ten species of woodpeckers, two of which are endemic to the country. Wrynecks, which are grouped with woodpeckers, are also found in Japan.

Woodpeckers exhibit a number of unusual properties. They have stiff tails that help to prop the bird in a vertical position on tree trunks, and feet with two toes facing forward and two facing backward. This foot arrangement aids in grasping the bark of trees. Woodpeckers have a strong bill which enables them to excavate holes and cavities in tree trunks. Their sticky barbed tongues are used to grab and extract insects.

The diet of woodpeckers consists primarily of insects, notably the grubs, from both living and dead trees. They augment their diet with fruit, nuts and sap from live trees. Different species specialize in consuming beetles and their grubs, ants, termites, spiders, and caterpillars.

Tropical rainforests harbour the largest number of woodpecker species with up to 22 species in one forest, but they are well represented in temperate woodlands, savannahs, scrublands, bamboo forests and even grasslands and deserts. Many species prefer to feed upon ants and the like in open areas, although they might retire to a cavity in a nearby forest grove.

Almost all woodpeckers nest in tree cavities, but a few species, such as those occupying deserts, build cavities in large cactuses. A few species have abandoned trees altogether and nest in holes in the ground.

Woodpeckers generally build a new nest cavity every year which takes about a month to complete. Females lay 2–5 eggs which



are incubated for about 2 weeks. From the time chicks hatch it takes 18–30 days before they are ready to leave the nest. Old cavities are seldom reused for nesting, but woodpeckers do use them for roosting at night. Cavities excavated by woodpeckers are used by many other species of birds and mammals for shelter and raising their young.



The Bodhisattva, it is said, once lived in a forest as a woodpecker.

Net News

NET LESSONS: Are you too busy to come to CROSSROADS?...Try our *lessons on the Internet!*

SITE OF THE MONTH:

Go here for some woodpecker facts:

<http://www.defenders.org/woodpeckers/basic-facts>

Article by Kenneth

Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua Says: We made it! The new school has turned out to be just as I envisioned it. And I'm very please that all of our students say they like the new environment so much. We are going to have our opening party on the 5th of next month which should finalize our move and signal our new start. I'm looking forward to this very much, as I hope all of you are. See you at the party!

Junko Says: We worked extremely hard in February, packing and moving. And now our new school is open. Many students are impressed with the wide windows, something we didn't have before, and say the view is wonderful and everything is bright and open. I feel our hard work has paid off. My next task for our new school is to introduce it to many people and offer them our services.



Kenneth Says: For many seasons my wife and I studied woodpeckers and their habitats in British Columbia, Canada. We studied the distribution patterns of woodpeckers in wildfire-prone forest landscapes to reveal that most woodpeckers prefer to forage and nest in remnant patches of older trees. Another year we were contracted to ascertain why woodpeckers were building cavities, and thereby damaging, wooden power poles.

Adrienne Says: According to Dr. Love, we often destroy the self-confidence and self-esteem of the people whom we are married to by our ATTITUDE towards them. In other words, we don't have to use mean words or violent behavior to hurt people. We can have an attitude of disrespect by saying things like, "You never get it right", or by speaking to people in a harsh tone of voice, or by constantly making fun of them.



Stephanie Dit: Mars, dieu de la guerre pour les Romains, était synonyme de destruction. Aujourd'hui, Mars est un symbole de renouveau avec le retour du printemps. Il est temps de laisser l'hiver derrière nous et de ranger les manteaux. Les cerisiers seront bientôt en fleurs alors... tous au parc ! Sinon, connaissez-vous la série télé Veronica Mars ? Une de mes préférées !

NOTICE BOARD

Opening party!

We will hold the **Opening Party for our new school**

on

Saturday, the 5th April '14
Starting time: **7:30pm.**

All our students are invited to attend. You are welcome to bring your friends and family along too!

Place: 5Fl. ISSEI Bldg.
1-5, 4-chome
Ichiban-cho
Matsuyama-shi.



Don't forget... **Our SPECIAL 1+1 Campaign offer! Up to 50% off!!**

See our notice board, or ask Junko in our office, for the details.